

The state of Illinois represents 9 percent of the population and receives only 4 percent of the transplants.

The legislation which Mr. LAHOOD and I are introducing today takes elements from a variety of different sources and combines them into a comprehensive bill aimed at improving the performance of the nation's organ donation and transplant system. The bill includes elements from:

The existing National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA);

H.R. 2418, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Amendments of 1999;

The OPTN regulation promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services and revised in 1999; and

Recommendations from the Institute of Medicine in its 1999 report: Organ Procurement and Transplantation.

The goal of the Donation and Transplantation Act is to increase organ donation rates and to foster a fair and effective system for improving the nation's organ transplantation system.

The legislation that we are introducing supports a number of programs aimed at increasing organ donation by establishing a grant program to assist organ procurement organizations (OPO) and other non-profit organizations in developing and expanding programs aimed at increasing organ donation rates; creating a Congressional Donor Medal to be awarded to living organ donors or to organ donor families; establishing a system of accountability and places the responsibility for increasing organ donation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS must report its progress to Congress); and establishes a system of support for state programs to increase organ donation.

Congress created the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) in 1984 to create a fair and effective system for matching organ donors with patients in need of organ transplants. The Act maintains the high medical standards established by Congress in 1984; further defines the organ allocation standards established by Congress in 1984 in order to ensure a fair and equitable system of allocation based upon the recent recommendations of the Institute of Medicine; establishes new standards of financial accountability in the operation of the OPTN; and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with the OPTN contractor to monitor and enforce the policies of the OPTN.

The Act further removes the burden for organ allocation from the Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and establishes a process, based upon sound medical criteria, for the certification and recertification of OPOs. The legislation further provides an opportunity for OPOs that fail to meet standards to implement a corrective plan of action.

Our legislation implements the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine through the creation of an advisory board to review OPTN policies and ensure the best performance of the OPTN in the effective and equitable procurement and allocation of donated organs. The legislation also includes a provision to reimburse individuals who donate organs for the non-medical travel expenses and maintains the current standard of enduring that patients have the best data and information about the nation's organ transplant

system. Finally, Mr. Speaker, as with the current law, our legislation provides that the OPTN will continue to be operated by a private non-profit organization, with rules that will be subject to review by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation that Congressman LAHOOD and I have introduced today is a sound compromise worthy of consideration. I hope that our colleagues will join us in support of this legislation.

HONORING ALVIS BROOKER, ALDERMAN, 23RD WARD, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mrs. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, the late Honorable Alvis Brooker, Alderman for the 23rd Ward of New Haven, Connecticut. On Monday, November 15, Alvis succumbed to the same rare liver disease that took the life of the great Walter Payton.

Alvis was an incredible force in the Dwight/West River section of New Haven, representing more than 5000 city residents. He was a member of the West River Neighborhood Association as well as the Dwight Central Management Team. Both of these groups are neighborhood organizations whose mission is to improve and enhance the neighborhood and quality of life for its residents. He worked diligently to address the needs of those he represented, especially the various security, housing, and revitalization issues they faced. He was instrumental in the George Street revitalization project, which involved a complete rehabilitation of the New Horizon Apartments, an elderly affordable housing complex. He also played an integral role in securing the funding for the development of Shaws Supermarket at Dwight Place which has brought about an economic renaissance in the area. Alvis always brought the needs of his constituents to City Hall—ensuring that their voices were heard.

During his three term tenure on the Board of Aldermen Board, he chaired the Public Safety and Substance Abuse Committee as well as the Youth and Youth Services Committee. As a case manager with the New Haven Family Alliance, he worked with primarily high-risk adolescents with drug and alcohol problems. His career experiences brought an uncommon insight to these committees and he was able to communicate the specific issues which our young people face with a unique authority. Prior to his work at the New Haven Family Alliance, Alvis pursued a counseling career within the Connecticut Department of Corrections, counseling inmates with substance abuse problems and lectured on the Criminal Justice System at public schools and universities across Connecticut. He also started and facilitated a program entitled "Youth Reaching Out to Youth", a program that designed an environment where teens could counsel each other on the difficult issues which they faced each day.

In only 33 years of life, Alvis Brooker left an invaluable mark on our community. Behind the myriad of Aldermanic Citations and Mayoral

Proclamations, there was a man who truly cared about his community. He was a leader in every sense of the word and will always be remembered for his unwavering commitment and tireless work on behalf of our children and families. He has certainly been an inspiration to all of us in the New Haven community and it was indeed a privilege to work with him and I am proud to have called him my friend.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to join his mother, Sallie, family, friends, colleagues, and the community he loved well to bid a fond farewell to my dear friend, Alvis Brooker. His strength and good heart will live on.

UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1996, the People's Republic of China (PRC) conducted two guided missile tests north of Taiwan, in an effort to intimidate the voting populous. Fortunately, the people in Taiwan recognized this act of intimidation by the PRC and overwhelmingly elected Lee Teng-hui as their first freely elected president in China's 5,000-year history.

This year, on the eve of Taiwan's second presidential election, the People's Republic of China has once again renewed its militaristic intimidation tactics against Taiwan. On at least two occasions, Beijing leaders had made it abundantly clear that it could invade Taiwan if Taiwan refused to engage in reunification talks. There is widespread concern throughout Taiwan, South Asia, and here in the United States that the PRC will continue its efforts to intimidate Taiwan. These attempts to destabilize Taiwan's healthy policy and economy would eventually lead to the surrender of Taiwan to mainland China.

I trust the voters in Taiwan will once again choose one of the three leading candidates as their president on March 18. It is vitally important that Taiwan's security not be compromised in any way. In the meantime, the goal of both governments should be increased dialog and a cooling of inflammatory rhetoric. Fear and instability will not serve the people of either Taiwan or the PRC, and it certainly will not serve the interest of the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that is very important to me, to my constituents in Hawaii, and to the people of the United States of America—the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

Under current law, the Social Security Administration does not pay benefits for the last month of life. It doesn't matter what day of the month the retiree dies. Even if a Social Security beneficiary dies on the very last day of the